

Jane Addams

Jane Addams helped make life better in American cities. She was born into a wealthy family in Cedarville, Illinois. As a young woman, she visited London. In a poor neighborhood there, she visited Toynbee Hall, a "settlement house" where students from Oxford University were helping people. Addams decided to try to do something similar in her home state. She used her own inherited money to start the project.

With a friend, Ellen Gates Starr, she leased a house in a run-down, rat-infested neighborhood in Chicago and called it Hull House. The two friends opened a reading room and a kindergarten. Soon, Hull House was offering cooking, health, and English classes for poor immigrants. Neighborhood people were welcome to come for help in everything from finding a place to live to learning

to sew. Addams worked to get the city to improve garbage collection and sewers. Hull House also acted as a center for the arts, with an art gallery and a music school. People paid a small amount for Hull House services. The point was not to give away charity but to help people become independent. By 1895, Addams's idea had been imitated in fifty more settlement houses in American cities. Many such houses exist today.

Addams did more than run Hull House. She worked especially hard for poor children. She helped end child labor in Illinois and worked to create juvenile courts, where children accused of crimes could be treated differently from adults. Addams thought fun was important, too. She sent city children to country summer camps and helped create the first public playground in Chicago.



Jane Addams, a woman who was devoted to helping others, especially poor children.

Read the clues about Jane Addams.

Then complete the puzzle using the word list on the next page.

Across

2. Addams helped set up _____ courts for children.
5. Immigrants could learn this language at Hull House.
6. City where Hull House was founded
8. Hull House had an art _____.
9. Term used for a city social services institution—_____house
11. Students from this university helped run Toynbee Hall.